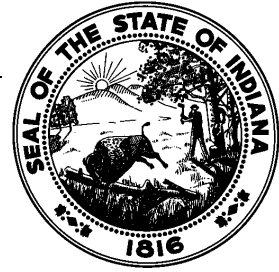


Indiana Department of Education



Center for School Improvement and Performance
Director, Office of Student Services
Room 229, State House - Indianapolis, IN 46204-2798
Telephone: (317) 232-9132
(800) 833-2199
Fax: (317) 232-9140
E-Mail: gnetttles@doe.state.in.us

July 29, 2005

To Whom This Matter May Concern

From: Director, Office of Student Services\
State Attendance Officer

Counterterrorism Symptom and Health Syndrome Data Collection

IC 16-19-10-8

Counterterrorism symptom and health syndrome data collection

Sec. 8. (a) The state department shall support the goals and objectives of the state's counterterrorism programs by collecting data related to:

- (1) symptoms; and
- (2) health syndromes;

from outbreaks or suspected outbreaks of diseases or other health conditions that may be a danger to public health.

(b) A health care provider or other entity that collects data described in subsection (a) shall report to the state department in accordance with rules adopted under section 5 of this chapter.

(c) The state department shall establish reporting, monitoring, and prevention procedures for data collected under this section.

(d) Data:

- (1) collected under subsection (a); or
- (2) reported under subsection (b);

from which the identity of an individual may be ascertained are confidential.

As added by P.L.8-2004, SEC.1.

Public Law 8-2004 Implementation Guidance

TO: Superintendents and Principals

FROM: Dr. Suellen Reed, Superintendent of Public Instruction

DATE: July 23, 2004

During the past session of the Indiana General Assembly, Public Law 8-2004 was established to require the Indiana State Department of Health to collect data related to symptoms and health syndromes from "outbreaks or suspected outbreaks of diseases or other health conditions that may be a danger to public health." Sec. 1, adding I.C. 16-19-10-8 to the Indiana Code.

School corporations and accredited nonpublic schools are required to report the percentage of student absences above a certain threshold as determined by the Indiana Department of Education. Sec. 2, amending I.C. 20-33-2-47.

The Indiana Department of Education has adopted a policy based on recommendations of the Superintendent's Advisory Committee. The policy is as follows:

1. A baseline attendance rate of 80 percent is established. An absenteeism rate of 20 percent or higher in a school initiates the reporting protocol required under this policy.

2. The local attendance reporting system will be established in consultation with the school nurse who is designated as coordinator (in accordance with 511 IAC 4-1.5-6) and who shall report directly to the superintendent of the local school corporation. In the case of an accredited nonpublic school, the person who coordinates student health services will fulfill this responsibility.

3. The report to the local health department will include any known or suspected reason for the excessive rate of absenteeism.

4. The day immediately before and immediately after a school vacation day, or an administrative day off (such as a snow day), will be exempted from reporting or consideration, unless otherwise determined by the local superintendent.

This policy is effectively immediately and will be subsequently superseded by a rule as required under IC 20-33-2-47. The rule-making process will commence as soon as possible and you will be notified of the time line and final action under this process. If you have any immediate questions, please contact Gaylon Nettles, State Attendance Officer, 317-232-9132, or via e-mail at: [<gnettlles@doe.state.in.us>](mailto:gnettlles@doe.state.in.us).

NOTE: IC 20-8.1-13-1 has been recodified to IC 20-33-2-47. The State Attendance Officer requests that, pending a rule of the Indiana State Board of Education clarifying reporting requirements, any implementation of this policy with local health departments due to syndromic surveillance be reported to the State Attendance Officer. This report will be forwarded as part of Homeland Security-Indiana Alert Network.